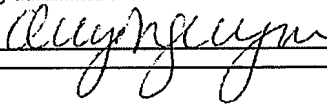


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: August 13, 2007

Signature: _____

 (Quyen Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,465
Confirmation No.: 6106
Filing Date: March 11, 2004
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.
Title: SURGICAL FASTENER
Examiner: G. Dawson
Group Art Unit: 3731

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated February 12, 2007 for which a response was due May 12, 2007. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to August 12, 2007 which fell on a Sunday. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.